JANUARY, 1891.

Good Housekeeping

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6

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A Wife's Disclosure.

A wife recently gave her husband a sealed letter, begging him not to open it till he got to his place of business. When he did so he read:

"I am forced to tell you something that I know will trouble you, but it is my duty to do so. I am determined you shall know, let the result be what it may. I have known for a week that it was coming, but kept it to myself until to-day, when it has reached a crisis, and I cannot keep it any longer. You must not censure me too harshly, for you must reap the results as well as myself. I do hope it won't crush you."

By this time the cold perspiration stood on his forehead with the fear of some terrible unknown calamity. He turned the page, his hair slowly rising, and read:

"The coal is all used up! Please call and ask for some to be sent this afternoon. I thought by this method you would not forget it."—*Sheffield Telegraph.*

To Cleanse a Room of Tobacco Smoke.

Tobacco smoke has a way of clinging to a room and giving it a peculiar odor that sometimes cannot be removed by airing. One who has suffered recommends that a pail of water in which a handful of hay is soaking be left in the room for an hour or so. At the end of that time the smell will have entirely disappeared. As all evidence of the cigar or pipe can be removed so readily the men can smoke as whatever they will place the pail of water in position when they are leaving.—*Unidentified Exchange.*

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BILL OF FARE.

TEN MORNINGS IN THE KITCHEN, I. . . . *Maria Parloa*
"BOBBY," . . . . . *Elizabeth Deering Hanscom*
THE COST OF LIVING, ... *A Family Raiser*
A RECONSTRUCTED FAMILY, ... *Sarah B. Thayer*
ON THE INSTALLMENT PLAN, ... *Edith Miniter*
HOME CHEER,
I.—A WELL-LIGHTED ROOM, ... *Alice D. Abell*
II.—HAVE A GOOD FIRE, ... *Inez Redding*
FAMILY FASHIONS AND FANCIES, ILLUSTRATED. *Helena Rowe*
THE CHINESE AS HOUSE SERVANTS. . . . . *Di Vernon*
A LITERARY CAMERA, ... *M. D. Sterling*
A VENISON DINNER, ... *Sara Sedgwick*
ON THE MUTUAL BENEFIT PLAN, ... *Mrs. Merry*
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II.—GUESTS AND GUEST CHAMBERS, . . *C. A. Cheniston*
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THE HOSPITABLE MARTHAS, ... *Carlotta Perry*
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I.—DINING AND DANCING, ... *F. H. Curtiss*
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THE CHILDREN OF THE HOUSEHOLD.
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THE COZY CORNER.
QUIET HOURS WITH THE QUICK WITTED.
A BIOGRAPHICAL BANQUET.
EDITOR'S PORTFOLIO.
THE NEW YEAR.
EDITORIAL CHIT-CHAT.
GOOD HOUSEKEEPING'S GOOD THINGS
EVENING HOURS AT HOME.
CRUMBS.
NOTABLE NOTHINGS.

POETRY.

THE WAY YOU'RE GOING, ... *Clark W. Bryan*
ECHOES, ... *Helen Haines*
A NEW YEAR'S GREETING, ... *Helen Whitney Clark*
THE LAND OF TO-MORROW, . . . *Mary Clark Huntington*
WOMAN WITH A CAPITAL W, ... *C. E. C. W.*
A HOUSEHOLD LION, ... *Ella Lyle*
"COMPANY IS COMING," . . . . . *Martha Gion Sparbeck*
ANOTHER DAY, ... *Emma E. Volentine*
WHAT WOULD WE ASK OF TIME, . . . *William Brunton*
WHEN THE TEAKETTLE HUMS, . . . *Hattie Whitney*
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PARING APPLES. . . . . *Irene Putnam*
NEW YEAR'S SONG. . . . . *Lydia Wood Baldwin*
CALICO, ... *Adeline G. George*
WHAT IS IT, ... *John Wentworth*
FUGITIVE VERSE.
ETC., ETC.

OUR FEBRUARY BILL OF FARE.

GOOD HOUSEKEEPING'S Menu for February will be decidedly attractive and appetizing, containing, as it will, a handsomely illustrated frontispiece; No. II of Miss Parloa's "Ten Mornings in the Kitchen"; Mrs. D. A. Lincoln's "Housekeeping—What is It?" a charming story of domestic life; No. II of Helena Rowe's inimitable descriptive Redfern Fashion papers; No. VIII of Mrs. Kenney's "Decorative Fashions and Fancies"; No. II of the useful "Household Table Drinks" series; choice St. Valentine's literature in verse and prose; some appropriate Lenten Fare bills; our usual budget of home life poetical entreès; besides a well-filled "Quiet Hours with the Quick Witted," "Evening Hours at Home," Editorial, Crumbs, Notable Nothings, and Fugitive Verse departments. All fresh, carefully prepared, entertaining and instructive. Those who may be so fortunate as to sit at our table during the entire year 1891, will have participated each month in "a feast of reason and a flow of soul" rarely equaled and never excelled.

BUSINESS COMMENT.

COUGHS AND COLDS are often neglected. A continuance for any length of time causes irritation of the Lungs or some chronic Throat Disease. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" are offered with the fullest confidence in their efficacy, giving almost invariably sure and immediate relief. They are an excellent preparation for removing hoarseness, and allaying irritation of the throat, and as a *cough remedy* are *one of the best Sold only in boxes.* Price, 25 cents.

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Fair white hands.
Bright clear complexion
Soft healthful skin.
"PEARS'—The Great English Complexion SOAP,—Sold Everywhere."

Never Shake a Rug.

In dusting do not forget the backs of pictures hanging on the wall.

A skewer used under the edges of carpets, and a slightly dampened cloth or sponge will save much dust and labor if occasionally used in place of a broom. Never shake a mat or rug. Remove them to the yard, hang them on a line and beat well; afterward lay them on the grass or clean walk and brush thoroughly with the broom. They will last as long again and look brighter and fresher after this treatment.—*Boston Globe.*

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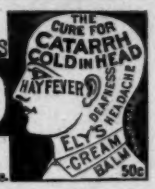

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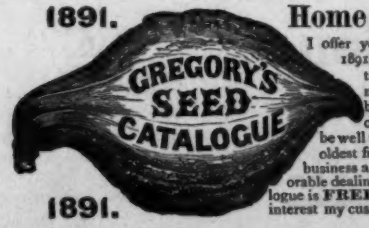
1891.



1891.

Home Grown, Honest, Reliable.

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Brass Door Knobs.

On the door fronts of many of the older houses occupied by families of pretension throughout the city it may be noticed that the hideous-looking bronze and porcelain knobs and bell pulls are being rapidly abandoned. The fashion now is brass, and any one who has occasion to go from street to street where there are houses that were built 20, 30, or 40 years ago will find that the knobs and bell pulls of bronze and porcelain are being removed and brass substituted for them. In some cases the old-fashioned bell pull is not used, and the older fashioned knocker has been put on in its place. But more often neither the bell pull nor the knocker is used, both having yielded to the little electric push button.—*New York Sun.*

Room to Swing a Cat.

Men hate a room filled with flying drapery and knickknacks, because it tires them, says Demorest's. I remember the answer of a very humorous writer to his wife, after a visit to a small flat filled with really beautiful furniture, each article having been carved to order.

"Would you not like a beautiful room like that to write in?" asked the wife.

"Oh, no! no! I want room to swing a cat. Not that I wish to annoy a cat, but I need the space."—*Boston Globe.*

A Bay City groceryman tested the youthfulness of eggs about to be bought by shaking them. A wise old farmer stood the rule for one box, smiled benignly, and carried about half of them home. The next day the same farmer appeared with another box, and the shaking test failed to rattle a single egg. But the groceryman was rattled later in the day, when the lady sent back a basket saying she wanted raw eggs and not boiled ones. The honest farmer is still at large.—*American Grocer.*

"No, Charles," said Emma, "I'll not go driving; I don't want any ice-cream; and you must not send me any candy." "Why not, Emma?" asked her fiancee. "Because, Charles, Christmas is coming, and—ah—I think you would better save your money for the holiday season."—*Harper's Bazar.*

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A Lively Spoon Market.

Society in general is suffering from a surfeit of bonbon and almond spoons. Of course the delicate little silver spoons designed for use at dessert are not in themselves a trial, but hundreds and hundreds of well-to-do people in Pittsburgh have been regretting since Christmas that they had ever laid eyes upon them. The afflicted understand exactly what the spoons have been responsible for this season, but for the sake of the comparatively few who are in blissful ignorance it may be explained that too many people hit upon the artistic but cheap almond or candy spoon as a Christmas present. Some families were swamped with spoons on Christmas day, and by actual count one lady of extensive acquaintance in the East End received fourteen spoons out of a total of thirty-two presents.

The spoon gift took an extra unpleasantness when, as happened in many cases, it was simply a matter of exchange. For instance, Mrs. A—— sent her dear friend, Mrs. B——, a silver almond spoon; and Mrs. B——, putting her friendship for Mrs. A—— at the same figure, sent a similar spoon to the latter. You see the little notes of thanks under such circumstances proved singular difficulties. Mrs. A—— could not thank Mrs. B—— for her "lovely little spoon," nor could Mrs. B—— thank Mrs. A—— for her "exquisite spoon," with the cheerfulness and grace the occasion demanded.

A fashionable jeweler informs me that he sold more little spoons than anything else Christmas. He could make money if he were to offer to buy all of them back at half price.—*Pittsburgh Dispatch.*

In dreadful suspense: First egg—what do you expect to be when you grow up? Second egg—An omelette—and you? First egg—Well, I don't know. Until this dreadful mystery as to my parentage is cleared up I do not know whether to be a spring chicken or a roast goose.—*Puck.*

Young hopeful (to his sister)—I say, Nell, pass me the butter. Nell (in a tone of reproach)—If what, Johnnie? Johnnie (goaded to desperation by the delay)—If you can reach it.

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The Married Man.

A married man always carries his condition with him, like a trade-mark. Anybody of average discernment can detect him at a glance. He does not pinch his toes with tight boots. He does not scent himself with violets. He never parts his hair in the middle. He keeps his seat in the horse car when the pretty girl, laden with bundles, comes in; he knows that his wife wouldn't approve of his rising. He does not get up flirtations with the good-looking saleswoman where he buys his gloves; he remembers that little birds are flying all around telling tales, and he has a horror of curtain-lectures; somehow, married men never seem to arrive at that state of beatitude where they do appreciate the kind of literary performances known as curtain-lectures.

The married man has come to that stage when he is convinced that the way his necktie hangs may not be any more important than his soul's salvation. He knows to a certainty that true happiness does not depend on the amount of starch in his shirt-bosom, but he will have to have been at least three times wedded before he will be able to be reconciled to a collar-band two sizes small or one size large. The man who can smile at fate when it swoops down upon him in the shape of an ill-fitting collar-band is nearly ready for canonization. —*New York Weekly.*

Where a Hen Lays.

Not long since a New Hampshire committeeman was examining an infant school class. "Can any little girl or boy give the definition of the word 'average'?" he asked. For some time no one replied, but finally a little girl hesitatingly replied: "It is a thing a hen lays an egg on, sir." "No, that's not right." "Yes, sir, my book says so"; and she trotted up to her questioner and pointed to this sentence in her reading book: "A hen lays an egg every day *on an average.—Every Other Saturday.*

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The Use of Spectacles.

Spectacles were invented 600 years ago. The use of glass to aid the sight of defective eyes is, however, much older. Nero looked through a concave glass in watching the gladiatorial games, and many other historical men of his day were dependent on similar devices for lengthening their sight. Till the latter part of the thirteenth century only the single glass was in use. In 1290 the double glass was invented, some say by Salvino degli Armati; others, by the monk, Alexander of Spina. In the fourteenth century spectacles were used quite frequently by the very wealthy and high born, although they were still so scarce that they were bequeathed in wills with all the elaborate care that marked the disposition of a feudal estate. The holy Antonius of Padua, who preached to the fishes when men refused to hear him, gave to the poor, according to the legend, not only his clothes, but also his spectacles.

The Ignorance Club.

This is the modest title of an association of women at Rochester, N. Y., whose object is the practical dissemination of useful knowledge, and its methods of work may prove suggestive to other localities, and to the other sex as well. This particular club is "averse to publicity, unnecessary parliamentary rules, financial taxation and mental strain," as a member of the club puts it. Its meetings are semi-monthly, and are held in a law office in the center of the city, easily reached from all the street cars. There are no refreshments served, and club members have no social claims upon each other. At every meeting the "ignorance book" is opened at nine o'clock—that is, slips of paper are distributed and questions are written, which are answered at once, or given to some one, to be answered at the next meeting. Recitations, apropos of something, in lieu sometimes, add variety, and a pronunciation committee looks out for offenders.

"Things are coming my way to-night," remarked the cat as he gazed pensively on the heap of old boots, lumps of coal, tin cans, etc., with which he had been presented.—*Boston Herald.*

Chaps.

The dear little "Chap" that mother likes,
The great big "Chap" that sister likes;
The irritating Chap that nobody likes—

All join Hands with the medical "Chap" of *The Lancet-Clinic*, who says: "Packer's Tar Soap is not only a good toilet soap, but an excellent remedy for chapped skin."

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Never think you have anything to do to make her happy, but that her happiness is to flow from gratifying your caprices; and when she has done all a woman can do, be sure you do not appear gratified. Never take an interest in any of her pursuits; and if she asks your advice, make her feel that she is troublesome and impertinent.

If she attempts to rally you good-humoredly, on any of your peculiarities, never join in the laugh, but frown her into silence. If she has faults (which, without doubt, she will have, and perhaps may be ignorant of), never attempt with kindness to correct them, but continually obtrude upon her ears: "What a good wife Mr. Smith has!" "How happy Mr. Smith is with his wife!" "Any man would be happy with such a wife!"

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7. Let your supper be light. —*Hall's Journal of Health.*

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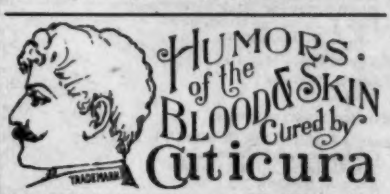

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